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# SCIENCE

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## SAMUEL WILLIAM JOHNSON

IN the death of Samuel William Johnson the chemists of America have lost one more from that small band who, two generations ago, undertook to extend and develop the beginnings which had been made to establish laboratories for instruction in chemistry and to apply this science to the industries of the country. Among these men, most of whom have already passed away, few left a greater impress on American chemistry or American chemists than did Professor Johnson, for his whole life was devoted to training workers in his chosen field, to making others realize what chemistry could do for them and to developing institutions and methods to extend the knowledge of chemistry and make this available to those engaged in productive occupations. The principal field to which he devoted his efforts was the application of science to agriculture, the results of which efforts are far better appreciated today, when the practical returns are so apparent than they were during the years of his greatest activity when he was patiently struggling against the conservatism of the so-called practical men who were persuaded with difficulty to make the beginning which was essential to demonstrate the truth of what he was trying to teach them.

Professor Johnson was born July 3, 1830, in Kingsboro, Fulton County, New York. His parents were of Connecticut origin but were taken by their parents to New York state when children. Although his father spent most of his active life in successful business he early retired to a large and fertile farm, soon after 1830,